

SS3733: SUPERVISED INDEPENDENT STUDY AND RESEARCH

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Supervised Independent Study and Research

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

3733

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

2

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

SS2028 Basic Psychology II; SS2033 Research Methods for Behavioural Sciences

Precursors

SS2714 Psychological Testing; SS3707 Design and Analysis for Psychological Research I; SS3708 Design and Analysis for Psychological Research II

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with an immersive experience in contemporary psychological research, offering them the choice to either (1) conduct an independent empirical research project or (2) actively participate in an existing research project under the supervision of a faculty member from the psychology discipline. Working closely with a dedicated supervisor and as part of a larger research team, students will gain hands-on experience in diverse research topics and methodologies. This course, which serves as a gateway to a comprehensive understanding of psychology, is intended to prepare students for the challenges of final-year projects and postgraduate study while also paving the road for future professional success.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Develop the ability to identify and critically assess psychological issues or challenges in organizations or society;	25	x	x	
2	Demonstrate proficiency in organizing and synthesizing relevant psychological theories and approaches through a comprehensive literature review;	25	x	x	
3	Acquire practical skills in collecting and analyzing psychological data through either independent study or participation in lab projects;	25	x	x	x
4	Develop the ability to formulate informed recommendations or creative solutions based on their research findings.	25	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

	LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	TLA1:Literature Review Presentation	Engage in the art of scholarly communication as you present a comprehensive literature review. Explore key theories, methodologies, and findings, fostering a deep understanding of existing research within your field and laying the groundwork for your own contributions.	1, 2	
2	TLA2: Research Activities: Research Design/Data Collection/Data Analysis/ Report Writing	Dive into the heart of research with hands-on activities covering design, collection, and analysis. Learn the intricacies of crafting a research plan, gathering data, and interpreting results, acquiring practical skills essential for successful project execution.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	TLA3: Individual Supervision	Experience personalized guidance through one-on-one supervision sessions. Engage in in-depth discussions with your mentor, receiving tailored feedback on your progress, refining your research approach, and gaining insights that shape the trajectory of your individual research journey.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	AT1: Presentation	1, 2	25		
2	AT2: Journaling	1, 2, 3, 4	25	Once every 4 weeks	
3	AT3: Written Report	1, 2, 3, 4	30		
4	AT4: Supervisor Evaluation	1, 2, 3, 4	20		

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. Presentation

Criterion

Evaluate the clarity of communication, depth of understanding, and effective presentation skills exhibited during the lab presentation, emphasizing the ability to convey complex psychological concepts in a comprehensible and engaging manner.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

2. Journaling

Criterion

Evaluate the depth and quality of reflections in the journal entries, focusing on the student's ability to thoughtfully analyze and reflect upon their research activities. Assess how well the entries demonstrate a critical understanding of the research process, challenges faced, and insights gained, highlighting the integration of theoretical knowledge with practical experiences.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

3. Written Report

Criterion

Evaluate the final report based on the research project's structure, clarity, and adherence to academic writing conventions. Assess the thoroughness of the literature review, methodology, results interpretation, and overall contribution to advancing understanding in the chosen psychological domain.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

4. Supervisor Evaluation

Criterion

Consider the supervisor's evaluation in terms of the student's collaboration, initiative, and responsiveness to feedback during the research process. Evaluate the student's ability to integrate constructive criticism, showcase adaptability, and contribute effectively to a team or independent research endeavor.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Students are required to initiate their enrollment in this course by completing a Learning Agreement Form in conjunction with their faculty supervisor. This course can be undertaken either within a semester or during the vacation break. The course requires a 52-hour commitment (4 hours per week for 13 weeks), with a focus on advancing the research project. The collaborative effort between the student and supervisor extends to jointly determining crucial details such as the project's scope, timeline, and the specific format for evaluation.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Christensen, L. B., Johnson, R. B., Turner, L. A. (2013). <i>Research Methods, Design, and Analysis</i> (12th ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
2	Bell, P. B., Staines, P., & Mitchell, J. (2001). <i>Evaluating, Doing and Writing Research in Psychology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Students</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
3	Dunn, D. S. (2012). <i>The Practical Researcher: A Student Guide to Conducting Psychological Research</i> (3rd ed.). Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
4	R. Eric Landrum. (2020). <i>Undergraduate Writing in Psychology: Learning to Tell the Scientific Story</i> (3rd ed.). American Psychological Association.